

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 10525 171558Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 EUR-12 ARAE-00 DHA-02 SNM-02 /079 W

----- 023227

P R 172100Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6810

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 10525

DEPT PLEASE PASS USIA/ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MX, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEXICO REACTS WITH GLEEFUL VEHEMENCE TO CONGRESSIONAL
LETTER.

REF: MEXICO 10428

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, OTHER PROMINENT GOM OFFICIALS, MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES, LEADERS OF IMPORTANT UNIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE MEXICAN PRESS HAVE REACTED WITH PREDICTABLE OUTRAGE TO THE "INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC MEXICAN AFFAIRS" REPRESENTED BY THE LETTER DESCRIBED IN REF. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIAL REACTION AUGUST 13 WAS A COMPARATIVELY MILD STATEMENT THAT THE CONGRESSMEN WHO SIGNED THE LETTER WERE ILL-INFORMED AND CONFUSED BUT BY AUGUST 16 HE WAS SAYING THAT "WHAT HAPPENED IN CHILE WILL NOT HAPPEN IN MEXICO".

2. PRESIDENCY SECRETARY IGNACIO OVALLE, AMONG OTHER GOM OFFICIALS, DECLARED THAT US CONGRESSMEN HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL MEXICAN AFFAIRS AND THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY WRONG IN THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE MEXICAN SCENE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 10525 171558Z

3. FIFTY-EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS JUST ELECTED RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING THE STATEMENT, TAKING ISSUE WITH ITS NINE POINTS, AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE NEXT US DELEGATION TO THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE WOULD INCLUDE SOME OF THE SIGNERS OF THE LETTER.

4. CARLOS JONGITUD, LEADER OF THE POWERFUL UNION OF MEXICAN TEACHERS, TOOK PARTICULAR ISSUE WITH THE LETTER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OBLIGATORY TEXTBOOK AS "CASTROITE" AND LABELED THE LETTER A "CHURLISH" (GROSER) INTERVENTION. LABOR LEADER ANGEL OLIVO SOLIS SPECIFICALLY COMPARED THE LETTER TO THE TYPE OF ACTIVITY OF THE "CIA IN CHILE".

5. EVERY MEXICO CITY DAILY HAS EDITORIALIZED ON THE SUBJECT, INCLUDING THE SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL, AND EACH PAPER CARRIED AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE POLITICAL COLUMNS ON THE SUBJECT OVER THE WEEKEND. THE MAJOR THEMES ARE:

A) THE LETTER IS PART OF A US CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT AND DESTABILIZE MEXICO;

B) ITS PURPOSE IS TO PRESSURE ENTERING PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO TO ADOPT POLICIES MORE AMENABLE TO US INTERESTS;

C) DENYING THE CHARGES WOULD BE UNDIGNIFIED--MEXICO HAS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO ADOPT WHATEVER INTERNAL POLICIES IT PLEASES; AND

D) THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF INTERNAL US AFFAIRS (DRUG ADDICTION, CRIME, "CONSUMERISM", DEHUMANIZATION OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS, PORNOGRAPHY) WHICH AFFECT MEXICO MORE THAN THE ALLEGED DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICO COULD AFFECT THE UNITED STATES. IN OTHER WORDS--"IF YOU WANT TO START SLINGING MUD. . ."

6. COMMENT: SEEPING THROUGH ALL THE INDIGNATION IS AN ALMOST GLEEFUL ATTITUDE THAT THE CONGRESSMEN HAVE PROVIDED YET ANOTHER OCCASION TO VENT RESENTMENT AND EXPRESS DEFIANCE OF THE NORTHERN COLOSSUS. REACTION FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE RULING COALITION HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 10525 171558Z

STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE RIGHT (ALTHOUGH EVEN PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS FELT COMPELLED TO DENOUNCE THE LETTER) PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY SEE THE LETTER AS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR LOPEZ PORTILLO TO ADOPT A POSTURE OVERTLY MORE FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY RIGHT IN THIS REGARD: WHATEVER THE INTENTION OF THE SIGNERS OF THE LETTER, THE INTENT IS

PERCEIVED HERE AS A PRESSURE BEING OPENLY EXERTED ON
MEXICO'S NEXT PRESIDENT AND FOR JLP TO APPEAR TO
IGNORE THE PRESSURE OR BOW TO IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
UNPALATABLE.
JOVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO10525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-0781
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaaboix.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 10428
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICO REACTS WITH GLEEFUL VEHEMENCE TO CONGRESSIONAL LETTER.
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006